

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 IO-14 /074 R

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P R 282028Z SEP 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PEPR, MR, KS

SUBJECT: USG SUPPORTS MAURITANIAN RELATIONS WITH ROK

REFS: (A) NOUAKCHOTT 2798, (B) NOUAKCHOTT 1797.

1. YOU SHOULD STRONGLY SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE GIRM INCLINATIONS TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH THE ROKG. IN DOING SO, THE FOLLOWING POINTS MAY BE USEFUL. ROK REPRESENTS ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD, HAVING ACHIEVED AVERAGE GROWTH OF GNP OF OVER TEN PERCENT ANNUALLY FOR MORE THAN A DECADE. AS A RESULT, ITS PRODUCTS AND FIRMS ARE WELL KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AND PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. FYI: EVER SINCE NORTH KOREA THREW AWAY ITS LONG-STANDING ADVANTAGE IN MAURITANIA (RELATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED 11/12/63) BY TAKING THE WRONG SIDE BY RECOGNIZING THE SDAR, THE ROK HAS BEEN VERY INTERESTED IN FILLING THE

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DIPLOMATIC VACUUM. ROK INTEREST IS WHETTED BY THE HOPE OF GAINING ACCESS TO THE SIGNIFICANT FISHING RESOURCES OFF MAURITANIAN COAST. END FYI.

2. DESPITE TWO-YEAR LULL IN ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS DEBATE ON KOREA, DIPLOMATIC COMPETITION BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH REMAINS KEEN, ESPECIALLY IN THIRD WORLD AND NON-ALIGNED

COUNTRIES. USG BELIEVES THAT RECOGNITION OF ROK IS ONLY DUE A COUNTRY WITH TWICE THE POPULATION AND THREE TIMES THE ECONOMIC SIZE OF NORTH KOREA, AND A MUCH MORE OPEN SOCIETY, AND THAT SUCH RECOGNITION IS AN ELEMENT FOR STABILITY, UNDERCUTTING NORTH KOREA'S EXAGGERATED CLAIMS TO SOLE LEGITIMACY AND OVERWHELMING ECONOMIC SUCCESS. DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THAT ROK HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN TRYING TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH GIRM (REFTEL B), AND WE WISH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED BY LAGHDAF TO SUPPORT THIS EFFORT.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER DETAILS ON PROGRESS IN ROK-GIRM RELATIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE247493
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DBMCNEAL:JCM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780397-0160
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978099/aaaaahkw.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0ab2de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NOUAKCHOTT 2798, 78 NOUAKCHOTT 1797
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1508586
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USG SUPPORTS MAURITANIAN RELATIONS WITH ROK
TAGS: PDIP, PEPR, MR, KS
To: NOUAKCHOTT
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0ab2de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014